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BRATISLAV LILIC
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Defense attorneys for Bratislav Lilic rested their case Thursday without calling any witnesses to refute charges that he defrauded a man who believed his son was being held prisoner in Vietnam.

U.S. Judge James R. Nowlin denied defense motions for an instructed verdict that would have acquitted Lilic of charges he defrauded \$46,000 from Austin attorney Douglas F. Pierce.

Lilic, a 34-year-old Yugoslavian, was charged with one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in an indictment that charged he posed as a KGB agent named Alexander Ivanov and promised he could win the release of Pierce's son, John Pierce, from a Hanoi hospital.

Pierce's son was a crewman on the Glomar Java Sea, an oil drilling ship owned by Global Marine Drilling Co. of Houston. It sank during a typhoon in the South China Sea 200 miles off the coast of Vietnam in October 1983.

John Pierce and 80 other crewmen from the ship were believed to have drowned in the storm, but there have been reports that some crewmen survived and were imprisoned in Vietnam.

In an attempt to show past fraudulent dealings, prosecutors called Chicago FBI agent Byron Eden to repeat testimony he gave Wednesday outside the presence of the jury.

Eden testified that Lilic served time for burglary at Statesville Prison in Illinois and that Lilic claimed he tried to make a living by selling bogus information to foreign governments.

He said Lilic claimed he contacted officials in South Africa, Libya, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania and Uganda, telling them he wanted money for information about arms shipments, rebel activities or planned assassinations.

"He (Lilic) described himself as a burglar and a con man, and that he wanted to use his (foreign) accent to pull off cons against foreign governments," Eden said.

The governments of South Africa and Uganda paid a total of \$40,000 for false information on an arms purchase and a plot on the life of former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, Eden said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack O'Donnell, as part of an agreement with defense attorney Joe Turner, did not allow jurors to hear the testimony of Ron Butler, director of security for the Jewish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York.

Butler told the court Wednesday that Lilic claimed he had delivered weapons and explosives to American Nazi and Arab groups for use against black and Jews.

Butler's testimony was not used because an FBI tape recording of the conversation was not submitted to the defense in a timely matter.

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The FBI tape was flawed, and efforts to mechanically enhance the conversation between Butler and Lilic were unsuccessful, Turner said.

Pierce testified Lilic led him on a series of secret, cross-country meetings in Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago and San Antonio, and that he paid Lilic \$46,000 in a futile attempt to get his son released from the Vietnamese.

Lilic was arrested in January by FBI agents in San Antonio, where he agreed to meet Pierce for another \$28,000 payment.

Pierce says he is certain his son is still alive. He claims the federal government has not sought his son's release because the Glomar Java Sea was a actually a spy ship with at least two CIA agents on board.